

**PAM MARSH**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 5  
SOUTHERN JACKSON COUNTY



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

July 22, 2019

Catriona Ayer  
Vice-President  
Schools and Library Program  
Universal Service Administrative Co.  
700 12<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Special Construction Service Delivery Deadline FCC Form 471# 181028314 FRN 1899053478

Dear Vice-President Ayer,

I am writing to convey my fervent support of Huntington School District's appeal to USAC to extend their Special Construction Service Delivery Deadline. The disbursement of reimbursement is contingent on completing the fiber build, which will not be possible without the requested extension.

This district was awarded E-rate funding, in addition to Federal and State Match in the amount of \$3.3 million. The extensive build challenges faced by rural, remote Oregon include geography, distance, and multiple permitting challenges. Huntington, a town of 500 residents located in the high desert on the eastern border of the state, sits nearly 500 miles on the other side of the Cascade Range from the State Capitol in Salem. This is best characterized as the frontier region of our state.

The USAC award is a unique opportunity for a small, rural district to secure high-speed broadband that is both scalable and affordable. The state initiated our e-rate program, known as the Connecting Oregon Schools Fund, because we know that it is essential to provide all Oregon students with access to technology that will provide quality personalized learning opportunities and prepare students for an increasingly digital-dependent workplace. We are extremely grateful for our federal partnership, which makes these projects possible.

The 94 enrolled students at Huntington School District are a textbook example of why the FCC adopted Special Construction as part of the 2014 E-rate Modernization Order. Schools in rural communities like Huntington deserve technological and educational excellence, but the design and construction of broadband facilities in our remote corners requires significant effort – and occasionally extra time.

We are hopeful that our enthusiastic support will preserve this funding and keep the project moving forward.

Thank you and please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Best regards,

Pam

Representative House District 05

Southern Jackson County